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ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To prevent negative pressure applied to bonded parts and to obtain an endoscope free from lowering of bonding strength and defective electric conduction by making inside of the casing of an image pickup unit communicate with the body of an endoscope.

CONSTITUTION: The body 5 of an endoscope consists of an insertion section 2, an operation section 4 and a light guide cable 4. The whole body 5 of the endoscope is made watertight by an outer cover 6. An image pickup unit 13 including a solid-state image pickup element 11 and accessory electric circuit parts 12 is attached at the tip 9 of the body, and the image pickup unit 13 is attached airtight to the tip 9 of the insertion section. In this case, when pressure outside of the endoscope 1 is reduced when transported by an aircraft, or sterilized by gas, inside pressure of the body 5 of the endoscope is also reduced through a mouthpiece 37. Further, inside pressure of a shield case 31 or the image pickup unit 13 that communicates with inside of the body of the endoscope through a protective tube 34 and a hollow hole 35 is also reduced at the same time.